INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

	Applicant's or agent's file reference PC-21004651 International application No. PCT/EP 03/07552			FOR FURTHER	ication of Transmittal of International ry Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
				International filing date 11.07.2003	e (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year) 15.07.2002
	rnationa 5C11/		ent Classification (IPC) o	r both national classification	and IPC	
	licant G ECI	_EPE	ENS S.A.et al.			
1.	This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.					
2.	This	REP	ORT consists of a total	al of 4 sheets, including	this cover sheet.	
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings who been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).						ing rectifications made before this Authority
These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.						
				•		
3.	This	repo	rt contains indications	relating to the following	items:	
3.	This			relating to the following	items:	
3.	1	⊠	Basis of the opinion	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	items:	
3.	This		Basis of the opinion Priority	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		tep and industrial applicability
3.	 }		Basis of the opinion Priority	of opinion with regard to		tep and industrial applicability
3.	 } }		Basis of the opinion Priority Non-establishment of Lack of unity of invented statements	of opinion with regard to	novelty, inventive so	tep and industrial applicability ty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
3.	I II III IV		Basis of the opinion Priority Non-establishment of Lack of unity of invented statements	of opinion with regard to ntion It under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) to ations supporting such s	novelty, inventive so	
3.	I II IV V		Basis of the opinion Priority Non-establishment of Lack of unity of invented in the control of t	of opinion with regard to ntion It under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) to ations supporting such s	novelty, inventive so with regard to novel statement	
3.	I II IV V		Basis of the opinion Priority Non-establishment of Lack of unity of invented in the content of t	of opinion with regard to ntion It under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) t ations supporting such s cited	novelty, inventive so with regard to novel statement	
-	 		Basis of the opinion Priority Non-establishment of Lack of unity of invented in the content of t	of opinion with regard to ntion It under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) to ations supporting such so cited e international application	novelty, inventive so with regard to novel statement	ty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
Date	 		Basis of the opinion Priority Non-establishment of Lack of unity of invented in the content of t	of opinion with regard to ntion It under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) to ations supporting such so cited e international application	novelty, inventive solution in plication	ty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
Date 05.	IIIIIVVVIIIVIIII	Mailing exami	Basis of the opinion Priority Non-establishment of Lack of unity of invented in the content of t	of opinion with regard to ntion at under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) wations supporting such so cited e international applications on the international ap	novelty, inventive solution with regard to novel statement on plication	ty, inventive step or industrial applicability;

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International application No.

PCT/EP 03/07552

I. Basis	of the	report
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1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)):

	De	scription, Pages				
	1-1	4	as originally filed			
	Cla	ims, Numbers				
	1-1	7	received on 20.03.2004 with letter of 17.03.2004			
	Drawings, Sheets					
	1/1		as originally filed			
2.		With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.				
	The	ese elements were av	vailable or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:			
		the language of a tra	anslation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).			
		the language of pub	lication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).			
		the language of a tra Rule 55.2 and/or 55.	anslation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under .3).			
3.	Wit inte	h regard to any nucl e rnational preliminary	eotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:			
		contained in the inte	ernational application in written form.			
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.						
		furnished subseque	ntly to this Authority in written form.			
		furnished subseque	ntly to this Authority in computer readable form.			
			the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure application as filed has been furnished.			
		The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.				
4.	The	amendments have r	resulted in the cancellation of:			
		the description,	pages:			
		the claims,	Nos.:			
		the drawings,	sheets:			

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5. 🗆	This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).	
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(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Yes: Claims Novelty (N) 1-17

Claims No:

Inventive step (IS) Yes: Claims 1-17

> Claims No:

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-17

> Claims No:

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

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State of the art: 1.

Coating blade for the application of coating color onto a travelling web.

Object: 2.

> Reducing or eliminating dry friction between the blade and the travelling web during the web loading phase.

3. Solution:

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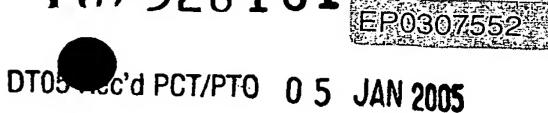
Applying a sacrificial layer covering the edge section of the blade, wherein said sacrificial layer is adapted to disappear, when using the blade, as a result of the arrival of the coating color at the coating blade.

Such a disappearing sacrificial layer according to independent claims 1 and 11 is neither known from nor suggested by the available state of the art.

Further Remarks:

- The description is not adapted to the claims and the nearest state of the art is not 1. cited (Rule 5 PCT).
- The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs (Rule 6 PCT). 2.





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CLAIMS

- 1. Coating blade for the application of coating color onto a travelling web, said blade having an edge section with a profile conformed to the surface of said web when in engagement therewith, c h a r a c t e r i z e d b y a sacrificial layer covering at least said section and protecting the underlying edge section during the web loading phase, wherein said sacrificial layer is adapted to disappear, when using the blade, as a result of the arrival of the coating color at
- 2. Coating blade according to claim 1 for use in the application of an aqueous coating color, wherein said sacrificial layer is soluble in water and otherwise compatible with said coating color.
- 3. Coating blade according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said sacrificial layer is substantially non-hygroscopic.

the coating blade.

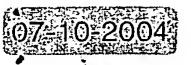
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- 4. Coating blade according to any one of the_preceding claims, wherein said sacrificial layer is constituted by a material selected from water-soluble polymers and polysaccharides capable of forming a film.
- 5. Coating blade according to claim 4, wherein said material is selected from acrylic or methacrylic polymers and copolymers and their salts.
- 6. Coating blade according to claim 4, wherein said material is selected from anionic copolymers on the basis of Acrylic acid, Acrylic ester and Acrylonitrile.
 - 7. Coating blade according to claim 4, wherein said material is selected from film-forming polysaccharides.
- 8. Coating blade according to claim 7, wherein said 30 material is selected from hemi-celluloses, plant gums, cellulose and derivatives thereof, starch and derivatives thereof, microbial polysaccharides, algal polysaccharides, and chitosan and derivatives thereof.
- 9. Coating blade according to claim 8, wherein said material is selected from ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose and carboxymethyl cellulose.





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- 10. Coating blade according to any one of the preceding claims selected from steel blades, hard-tipped blades, and soft tipped blades.
- 11. A method of preparing a coating blade for the application of coating color onto a travelling web, said blade having an edge section with a profile conformed to the surface of said web when in engagement therewith, comprising the following steps for providing the blade with a sacrificial layer protecting said edge section during a web loading phase:
 - a) preparing a solution containing a material capable of forming a film on evaporation of solvent;
 - b) applying said solution onto at least said section; and
- c) allowing the applied solution to dry so as to form, on at least said section, a solid film having a thickness of 100 μm to 700 μm ;

wherein the sacrificial layer is adapted to disappear, when using the blade, as a result of the arrival of the coating color at the coating blade.

- 12. A method according to claim 11, wherein step c) includes heating to an elevated temperature.
- 13. A method according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the solution is applied in several layers with intermediate heating between the application of each layer.
- 14. A method according to any one of the claims 11 to 13, wherein under step a) an aqueous solution is prepared which contains a polysaccharide in a concentration of at most about 10% by weight.
- 15. A method according to claim 14, wherein said concentration is from about 1% to about 7% by weight.
 - 16. A method according to any one of the claims 11 to 13 wherein under step a) an aqueous solution is prepared which contains an anionic copolymer on the basis of acrylic acid, acrylic ester and acrylonitrile in a concentration of at most about 40% by weight.
 - 17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said concentration is about 15% to about 30%.

